

CRAFT Maker Space at Mary Immaculate College

WHO WE ARE

Mary Immaculate College (MIC) is a leading third-level institution in Ireland in the provision of programmes in the teaching of STEAM at primary level and are at the frontline of teacher education playing an important role in shaping the attitudes and fostering the values of STEAM education for 21st century learners through both formal and informal educational outreach initiatives. Building on this work the establishment of a dynamic and interactive public exhibition and interactive workshop space, entitled the CRAFT Maker Space located within MIC, will allow for the innovative fusion of creative arts and STEM education. This space will be the first of its kind to be located in the Mid-West region.

THE VISION

The CRAFT Maker Space aims to demystify STEM and STEAM and to catalyse the public's engagement with STEAM through a variety of accessible and inclusive outreach activities for families that focus on building creativity, innovation and STEAM skills for life.



BUILDING ON EXISTING STEM & STEAM PROJECTS AT MIC

All activities at the CRAFT Maker Space will promote an awareness of the importance of STEAM skills and related careers and the impact, knowledge and practice that STEAM skills have on the economy, society and everyday life.

This CRAFT Maker Space project is a new initiative, which will significantly add to, and compliment Mary Immaculate College's long-standing engagement in STEAM educational outreach.



WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT?

The overall aim of the CRAFT Maker Space at Mary Immaculate College is to empower children (5-15 years old), and the public to embrace innovation, enhance creativity and critical thinking skills. This will be achieved through exploration, play, STEAM activities as well as design, and build opportunities. The CRAFT workshops will involve collaborative engineering design projects placing an emphasis on the concept that we are all makers i.e. we are all designers, engineers, scientists, mathematicians, inventors, 'thinkers', artists, crafters etc.

The workshops will involve volunteers from our co-hort of pre-service primary teachers at Mary Immaculate College. These future teachers will develop key skills in designing and delivering STEAM activities that they can implement in classrooms nationally.



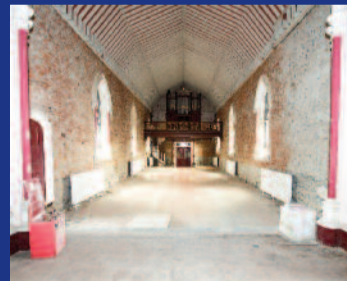
COLLABORATIONS

In order to deliver on our proposed CRAFT Maker Space, we would like to collaborate with as many stakeholders in STEM and STEAM education and from a variety of STEM and creative industries that share our vision and are interested in the future development and provision of STEAM education. It is envisaged that the STEAM workshops will be co-designed with STEM and STEAM education experts from Mary Immaculate College with representatives from local industry and STEM educational outreach initiatives.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

First and foremost, the aim of the CRAFT Maker Space is to create opportunities for engagement in STEAM disciplines by children at primary and post-primary education levels and their families. In the longer term, the aims are:

- To develop 'STEAM' champions within our future generation of teachers.
- To develop a network of key stakeholders in the STEM educational outreach space.
- One of the legacy impacts of CRAFT will be also to disseminate research that supports the STEAM approach to engagement with the STEM disciplines to inform the future design and development of STEAM educational outreach initiatives into the future.



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